(b) whether Government is going to make use of these agencies for preempting and combating terrorism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) The Deptt. of Telecom has not licenced operation of private electronic intelligence gathering agencies in India.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Improvement in Telecom Service in West Godavari District of Andhra Pradesh

1587. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any monitoring is done by Andhra Pradesh Telecom as to how calls emanating from small towns in various districts are actually connected by trunk operators;

(b) if so, the ratio of trunk calls booked from rural areas and the number of which are actually connected;

(c) whether any monitoring has been done in West Godavari District Telecom in the last three years;

(d) wheher it is a fact that trunk calls booked from small towns and major panchayats of West Godavari to out of State destinations are frequently un-connected; and

(e) if so, whether any directions have been issued to the District Telecom authorities to attend to complaints immediately in this respect and what other steps are being taken to improve telecom services in West Godavari district?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NADU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) About 40 per cent of the total trunk calls booked per day are from rural areas out of which about 85 per cent are effective.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Not applicable in view of reply at (c) and (d) above. However, suitable instructions exist and the same have been reiterated for further improvement of telecom services.

Theft of telephone equipments and cables from Ballabgarh and Faridabad exchanges

1588. SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that telephone equipments and cables etc. worth lakhs of rupees have been stolen from the Ballabgarh and other telephone exchanges in Faridabad as per report appearing in the press recently;

(b) if so, what are the details of the equipments and telephone cables lost and their value;

(c) whether any inquiry has been made to fix the responsibility on the local telephone staff for lack of vigilance and also effort made to recover the stolen telephone equipments; and

(d) if so, what are the findings of the inquiry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b) There was a cable theft in Ballabgarh Sub-Division in April, 1993. The details are:

Under-ground junction cable 800 pairs value Rs. 13,600.00

Underground junction cable 200 pairs value Rs. 8,700.00

(c) F.I.R. lodged with the Police authority at Faridabad.